

contact " When they got there, Webb had a Memorandum ready In return for an acceptance, on the part of his Committee, of a restriction in the rate of mortgage interest, he got the property owners' representatives to agree to the principle of the legal limitation of rents. Thereupon, a joint Deputation to the Minister took place, which resulted in the prompt introduction and passage of the Rent Restriction Act,—which could never have been got through without this * bourgeois' co-operation

This is not the place in which to record the full history of the work of the Committee, important as it was A dramatic instance of the power they, at times, wielded was the dropping by the Government of the project, formed at the time of a critical shortage of munitions, of introducing Chinese labourers into Great Britain The Government was not grateful, at the time, though they realised later how stupid such a defiance of popular feeling would have been Through his work on the War Emergency Committee, Webb, in his turn, became personally known to, and grew to appreciate, many leading members of the Labour Party, with whom his contacts before had only been superficial Arthur Henderson, on joining the Coalition Government in 1915¹ was succeeded as Chairman (after a brief interval in which J. A. Seddon held the position, and then resigned from the Committee altogether) by Robert Smillie Always he expresses the warmest admiration for the great mining leader's quality his mental grasp as well as that loveable-

ness everyone felt who got beneath his
somewhat gnarled
surface With Smillie, on this
Committee, and with
MacDonald here, and also on the War Aims
Special Com-
mittee set up in 1917, he worked in very close
harmony
There was a complete burying of hatchets
Further, in
1915, he became, for the first time, a member of
the National
Executive of the Labour Party itself The
Fabian nominee
had for some years previously been W
Stephen Sanders